
GOWER

Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

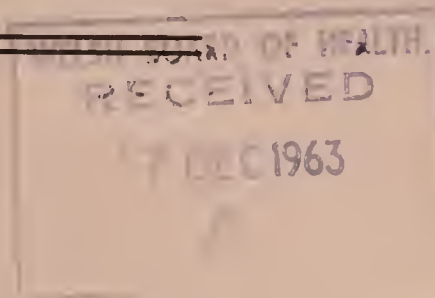
1962

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G. E. DONOVAN

M.D., M.Sc., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health



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Chairman Councillor Glyn A. Grove

Vice-Chairman Councillor C. A. Brown

Councillors :

D. G. Beynon
 B. Edwards
 G. E. Gibbs
 W. I. Gibbs
 L. Green
 I. A. Gronow
 D. O. Hughes
 Mrs. S. Jones
 W. Jones
 M. J. Leyshon
 T. Lloyd
 F. Lord
 Dr. W. E. S. Moreton
 B. J. Richards
 John Richards
 J. B. Rogers
 H. A. Taylor
 D. I. Thomas
 P. T. Williams
 Mrs. M. G. Williams

Public Health Committee :

Chairman Councillor W. D. Tucker

Vice-Chairman Councillor J. D. Weekes

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health :

G. E. DONOVAN, M.D., M.Sc., D.P.H.
19/21 Uplands Crescent, Swansea
Telephone : No. 57887

Chief Public Health Inspector :

D. C. LLEWELLYN, F.S.I.A.,
C.R.S.I. (Meat & Other Foods)

Additional Public Health Inspector :

T. G. V. RADFORD
C.R.S.I. (Meat and Other Foods)

Clerk :

W. MARROW

Gower Rural District Council

To the Chairman and Members of the
GOWER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
19/21 Uplands Crescent,
Swansea.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1962.

The Population of Gower is increasing year by year, it has now reached 12,810, an increase of 290 from the previous year.

This is the residential population, but at holiday times is several times higher, and the people who visit Gower come not only from Britain but also from foreign parts. It will be realised that the mixing of these people can be potentially dangerous from an epidemiological point of view, and facilities provided should be adequate.

The outbreak of Small Pox in Glamorgan in 1962 cast its shadow over our area. We immediately took vigorous action and a very high proportion of the population were vaccinated against Small Pox.

I would like to pay tribute to the staff of the Public Health Department. One works with staff and accepts as a natural thing their loyalty, but I think it is only right to acknowledge this and thank them for giving first class service.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

G. E. DONOVAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

General Statistics

Area of District—38,652 acres

Rateable Value of the District—£30,1215

Sum represented at 1d. rate—£1,212

Registrar General's estimate of resident population mid year
1962—12,810.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the year 1962

Live Births :		M.	F.	Total	
Legitimate	.....	118	94	212	Rate per thousand of the estimated populations— 17·02
Illegitimate	.....	3	3	6	

Still Births					
Legitimate	.....	1	3	4	Rate per thousand total (live and still births— 22·4
Illegitimate	.....	—	1	1	

Total live & still births	.....	223
Infant deaths	3	5
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	22·94
Neo natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births		18·35

Maternal deaths	Nil
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Comparability Factors

<i>Births</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
1·01	0·97

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND CHIEF INDUSTRIES

The Gower area is chiefly agricultural with the exception of the North Eastern end on the Peninsula, which is industrial in character. Due to the charms of the area there is a very large influx of visitors, especially during the summer months, and the health facilities should be such as to adequately deal with this population. It must also be remembered that the Gower population is constantly increasing.

The population find employment on the land, catering for visitors, and a large percentage of the male population find employment in the Llŵchwr area where they are engaged in the Steel, Tin and Coal Trades.

At the Penclawdd, the cockle industry absorbs approximately 200 people. The estuary is polluted, and the industry should be safeguarded by adequate public health control. At the present time there are 6 cockle sterilization plants operating in the Penclawdd area.

AREA AND POPULATION

The District is divided into 17 parishes, the acreage of each parish being as follows :—

Bishopston	..	..	2598	acres
Llanmadoc	.....	.....	1463	„
Cheriton	.....	.....	1427	„
Ilston	.....	.....	3109	„
Reynoldston	.....	.....	1069	„
Knelston	.....	.....	548	„
Llangennith	.....	.....	3373	„
Llanrhidian Higher	.....	.....	5212	„
Llanrhidian Lower	.....	.....	6125	„
Nicholaston	.....	.....	517	„
Penmaen	.....	.....	1005	„
Oxwich	.....	.....	1342	„
Pennard	.....	.....	2862	„
Penrice	.....	.....	2127	„
Porteynon	.....	.....	1151	„
Llanddewi	.....	.....	2009	„
Rhossili	.....	.....	2715	„
			<hr/>	
			38652	„
			<hr/>	

The estimated resident population of the district mid-year 1962 is given by the Registrar General as 12,810, an increase of 290 from the previous year.

BIRTHS

The total number of live births registered for the year 1962 was 218—121 males and 97 females. The previous year 108 males and 116 females were registered.

3 illegitimate male and 3 female births were registered, and the still births numbered 4 legitimate and 1 illegitimate.

BIRTH RATE

The birth rate for Gower shows a very slight decrease for 1962, being 17·02 per thousand of the estimated population as compared with 17·89 in the previous year.

DEATHS

The net total deaths after allowing for inward and outward transfers amounted to 139, of which 77 were males and 62 females. Total deaths in 1961 was 198, showing a decrease of 59 deaths.

There were no maternal deaths for 1962.

DEATH OF INFANTS

	M.	F.
Under 1 year of age	3	2
Under 4 weeks of age	2	2
Under 1 week of age	2	1

The causes of death during the year were as follows:—

Infective and Parasitic Diseases	.....	.....	.....	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	....	.....	.....	9
,, ,, bronchus	....	.....	.....	5
,, ,, breast	.....	.....	.....	4
,, ,, uterus	.....	.....	.....	3
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	.....	.....	.....	16
Vascular lesions of nervous system	.....	.....	.....	18
Coronary disease, angina	.....	.....	.....	22
Hypertension with heart disease	.....	.....	.....	4
Other heart diseases	....	.....	.....	14
Other circulatory diseases	.....	.....	.....	7
Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	4
Bronchitis	.....	.....	.....	8
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	....	.....	.....	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	.....	.....	.....	2
Nephritis, & nephrosis	..	.....	.....	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	.....	.....	.....	2
Congenital malformation	.....	.....	.....	2
Other defined & ill-defined diseases	.....	.....	.....	10
Motor accidents	.....	.....	.....	2
All other accidents	.....	.....	.....	1
Suicide	..	.....	.....	3
TOTAL	.....	.....	.....	139

Death Rate

All causes per thousand of the estimated population	10·85
Heart diseases	5·07
Cancer and other forms of malignant disease	2·88

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Infant mortality rate per thousand total live births 22.94

DEATHS FROM CIRCULATORY DISEASES

It will be noted that 65 deaths out of a total of 139 deaths are classified as diseases of the circulatory system. This is a very high number and I think that an effort should be made to reduce this high percentage.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria Immunisation

There have been no notifications of Diphtheria this year. The last case reported was in the year 1950.

Since the new Health Scheme this is under the control of the Glamorgan County Council.

General Practitioners in the Administrative County who participate in the County Council's Scheme for Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination against Smallpox may obtain serum and vaccine free of cost from the Medical Research Council's Laboratories at Cardiff and Carmarthen.

It may be thought that there is no necessity to continue diphtheria immunisation in an area like ours where a case of diphtheria has not occurred since 1950. The reason we have not had a case is due to the intensive immunisation practised by us.

If diphtheria immunisation ceases, it will only have a comparatively short time to be back in the bad old days.

Scarlet Fever

No cases notified to my department during the year.

Puerperal Pyrexia

6 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified to the department for the year 1962, giving a rate of 26.9 per thousand total live and still births.

Measles

48 cases reported.

There were no other cases of infectious diseases notified. In 1961 there were 274 cases in all, and 1962 has proved the best record over a number of years.

VENEREAL DISEASES

Blood Tests are being done as a routine in the County Council Ante-Natal Clinics.

The nearest clinics for this area are at Swansea and Port Talbot, and the sessions are held as follows:—

Swansea Clinic (situate at Mount Pleasant Hospital)

Males—Monday to Friday—from 8 a.m.—8 p.m.

Saturday, 8 a.m.—12.30 p.m.

Specialist in attendance on :—

Monday at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Females—By appointment.

Specialists in attendance—Wednesdays 3 p.m.

Port Talbot Clinic (situate on the right hand side of the road immediately opposite the exit from Railway Station).

Males—Monday, 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. and
5 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

Thursday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and
and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

GLAMORGAN (ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY)—VITAL STATISTICS, 1962

	Estimated Population 1962	Births			Deaths			Infant Mortality	
		Number of Births	Rate per 1000 population		Number of Deaths	Rate per 1000 population		Deaths under 1 Year	Rate per 1000 Live Births
			Crude	Adjusted		Crude	Adjusted		
England and Wales		840,557	18·0	—	557,446	11·9	—	17,978	21·4
Administrative County	748,700	17·21	16·87	9,183	12·27	14·36	317	24·60
Urban Districts	524,770	17·37	17·02	6,613	12·60	14·62	229	25·12
Rural Districts	223,930	16·84	16·50	2,570	11·48	13·66	88	23·34
<i>Health Division.</i>									
Aberdare and									
Mountain Ash	39,030	15·50	15·97	605	15·50	15·97	22	36·36
Caerphilly and	29,520	16·33	16·17	365	12·36	14·96	13	26·97
Gelligaer.	36,230	20·07	19·07	412	11·37	14·89	15	20·63
Mid Glamorgan	34,990	19·66	20·25	423	12·09	15·23	15	21·80
	15,110	17·07	15·88	185	12·24	13·46	4	15·50
	21,710	18·24	18·24	249	11·47	14·45	7	17·68
	21,050	16·82	16·82	239	11·35	13·73	13	36·72
	11,130	16·98	16·30	169	15·18	14·72	3	15·78
	42,360	19·38	19·38	520	12·28	13·14	24	29·23
	30,670	15·55	14·46	445	14·51	16·40	12	25·16
	40,970	15·55	15·24	484	11·81	15·00	17	26·69
Neath and									
District	27,080	18·43	17·69	296	10·93	13·99	17	34·07
Pontypridd and	35,480	16·15	15·50	514	14·49	15·07	16	27·92
Llantrisant	9,440	19·92	19·52	92	9·75	13·94	6	31·91
Port Talbot and	51,150	19·10	18·15	500	9·78	12·91	20	20·47
Glyncorrwg	42,040	18·84	18·09	461	10·97	12·18	9	11·36
South East	50,130	16·80	16·13	572	11·41	13·58	11	13·06
Glamorgan	1,100	16·36	17·01	15	13·64	14·19	1	55·56
	19,760	16·19	16·19	151	7·64	12·15	3	9·38
	20,680	16·71	16·71	274	13·25	12·99	8	22·22
West Glamorgan									
Gower Rural	218	17·02	17·19	139	10·85	10·52	5	22·94
	25,050	14·94	14·94	323	12·89	15·00	5	13·62
	30,820	14·22	14·22	408	13·24	14·70	11	25·35
Rhondda M.B.	1,666	16·60	16·27	1,342	13·37	15·51	60	36·01

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) for 1962

DISEASES	NUMBER OF CASES										Total number of cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
	Total at all Ages	AGE PERIODS										
		Under 1 Year	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 and over	Age un- known			
Measles	48	—	10	11	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	

TUBERCULOSIS

4 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, being 2 males and 2 female, as compared with 5 cases in 1961.

There were no cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified.

THE CARE OF THE AGED

The District Nursing Service, and Home Help Service, provided by the Glamorgan County Council, are a boon to the aged.

It is very desirable that proper housing conditions should be provided for the aged and that they should be kept in their homes as long as possible.

Some means should be found of helping families to retain their aged in their homes rather than sending them to Public Institutions—of course it is necessary in certain cases that aged and infirm people may have to go into suitable Institutions.

Poliomyelitis. Mass immunisation against poliomyelitis is being done. The driving force behind this is the public health department of Glamorgan County Council. It is hoped eventually to combat this disease.

This is a good illustration of "Prevention is better than cure".

LUNG CANCER

The number of deaths due to lung cancer during the year was 5, 4 males and 1 female.

These figures can be compared with the deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, as shown in the following table :—

	Lung cancer			Respiratory Tuberculosis		
1957	6	.....	.....	1	.....
1958	5	.....	.....	3	.....
1959	1	.....	.....	1	.....
1960	5	.....	.....	1	.....
1961	5	.....	.....	1	.....
1962	5	.....	.....	—	.....

All other forms of cancer caused 32 deaths,—15 females and 17 males. An increase of 9 deaths from the pervious year.

SMOKING AND DISEASE

The best way to avoid contracting cancer of the lung is not to start smoking, and if one is a smoker, the risk can be lessened by making an effort to abstain from tobacco.

The heavy smoker may state that he enjoys his cigarette so much that he cannot give up his enjoyment. Against this it must be remembered that a corpse whose death was due to lung cancer due to smoking is incapable of enjoying the fragrance of the weed.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925

No action was taken under this regulation during the year 1962, relating to Tubercular employees in the milk trade.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 172

No action was taken under this Section during the year 1962.

Tuberculosis Clinics—The curative treatment of Tuberculosis is in the care of the Regional Hospital Board, and patients suffering from this disease attend the Clinic at the New Hospital Singleton Park, Swansea.

TUBERCULOSIS NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1962

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS		
	Respiratory M.	Respiratory F.	Non-Respiratory M.	Non-Respiratory F.	Respiratory M.	Respiratory F.	Non-Respiratory M. F.
Under 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—44	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
45—64	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	2	2	—	—	—	—	—

Hospitals—The Gorseinon General and Maternity Hospital and Garngoch Hospital are under the control of the Glantawe Regional Hospital Board.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

Ambulance Facilities :—

Infectious and Non-Infectious Cases—Since the 5th July, 1948, the Glamorgan County Council have taken over the control of the ambulance services in the administrative county.

As regards this area, an Ambulance Station had been established at Pontardawe, which controls the ambulances and cars stationed at Reynoldston, Gowerton, Gorseinon, Pontardulais, Gwauncaegurwen, Cwmllynfell, Ystalyfera, Pontardawe and Clydach.

Laboratory Facilities—Pathological and bacteriological specimens are submitted to the Cardiff Laboratory and the Public Health Laboratory, Cockett, Swansea, for examination.

HOUSING

No. of Council Houses erected in 1962	Nil
No. under construction at 31-12-62	Nil
No of private houses erected in 1962	121
No. under construction at 31-12-62	55

FOOD AND DRUGS

Through the kindness of Dr. W. E. Thomas, County Medical Officer of Health, I am able to give the following particulars of samples taken and submitted to the Public Analyst,

**Samples taken in the Gower Rural District by the
County Sampling Officers for the year 1962**

Almonds (ground)	2	Lard	2
Aspirins	3	Meat products (canned)	2
Baby food	1	Milk	49
Baking powder	1	Mince meat	2
Cake sponge	1	Olive Oil	1
Castor oil	1	Orange & Lemon curd	1
Chocolate spread	2	Pearl barley	2
Coffee & Chicory	2	Peel (mixed)	1
Cream	1	Pepper	1
Curry powder	1	Pickels	1
Desiccated Coconut	2	Pudding (canned)	1
Dessert powder	1	Rice	4
Dripping	1	Sauces	2
Essence	1	Semolina	2
Fish (canned)	3	Soft drinks	6
Fish (frozen)	2	Sugar	2
Flavouring	1	Table Jelly	1
Fruit (canned)	3	Tapioca	3
Fruit (dried)	2	Tonic water	1
Fruit Juice	2	Vegetables (canned)	3
Glucose	1	Vegetables (dried)	1
Glycerine	1	Vinegar	1
Gravy browning	1	Vitamin Tab. etc.	3
Health salts	3		
Honey	1		
Ice-cream	2		

CARAVANS

The following are the licenced caravan sites within the area:—

<i>Holiday Sites</i>	<i>Caravan permitted</i>
F. G. Bevan, Bayholme, Oxwich	.....10
Wm. Beynon, Westernside Farm, Horton	.....18
E. G. Chappel, Briarwood Farm, Knelston	.....20
T. E. Gordon, Greenway Farm, Oxwich	.....70
D. A. Griffiths, Culver House, Port Eynon	.....11
Mrs. H. M. Grove, Port Eynon Burrows	.....64
J. Noel Grove, Port Eynon Enclosures 234 and 235	.....70
W. & E. Grove, Post Office, Port Eynon	.....50
D. G. Lewis, Sea View Caravan Site, Oxwich	.....54
W. H. Loosemore, New Park, Port Eynon	.....50
J. Morris, Broughton Bay, Llangennith	.....200
J. Mumby, Horton Farm, Horton	.....7
J. Nuttall, Horton Burrows, Enclosure 452	.....18
J. Oliver Green Meadow Farm, Oxwich	.....25
G. E. Rees, Hillend, Llangennith	.....200
E. Richards, Horton Burrows	.....18
E. Richards, Bank Farm, Horton	.....14

Caravan Sites—Continued

E. Solomon, Brynmoel Farm, Upper Killay	.....	.....	.....30
St. Donats Holiday Estates Ltd, Lagadranta, Llanmadoc	.....	.....	.....190
Leonard Smith, Norton Farm, Oxwich	.....	.....	..... 5
H. A. Taylor, Fairfield, Southgate	.....	.....	.....56
N. Tucker, The Beeches, Horton	.....	.....	..... 7
T. Williams, Cliffside Guest House, Oxwich	.....	.....	..... 4

*Residential Sites**Caravans Permitted*

G. D. Gadsen, Great Southgate Farm, Southgate	.....	.....	..... 1
W. E. Heaten, Healcot, Heal Lane, Pennard	.....	.....	..... 1
H. I. Thomas, Beaufort Arms, Kittle, Bishopston	.....	.....	..... 3

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

As required by Section 153 (1) of the Factories Act, 1961, I give below particulars with respect to matters under Part I and Part 8 of the Act as administered by this Council :—

1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

	<i>No. on Register</i>	<i>No. of Inspections</i>
(1) Factories in which Sections, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	2
(2) Factories not included in (1) which Section 7 is enforced by the local Authority	22	13
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding outworker's premises)	4	2

2—Cases in which defects were found :

	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	3	3
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)		
(a) Insufficient	1	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—
Totals	5	5
(3) Outworkers (Sections 133 and 134)	None	

Summary of Visits

Number of Houses inspected	73
Number of Houses re-visited	106
Number of temporary dwellings inspected	42
Number of temporary dwellings re-visited	20
Caravan and Camping Sites	166
House-letting	55
Food premises, Cafes etc.	27
Hotels and Licensed Premises	6
Schools and School Kitchens	6
Slaughterhouses.....	299
Cockle and Laverbread Manufacturers	12
Dairy premises	1
Farm premises	5
Water supplies	15
Drainage and Sewage disposal	258
Refuse Disposal	11
Infectious Diseases	44
Disinfections	3
Disinfestation	14
Rat Infestation	18
Petroleum Stations	62
Public Conveniences	8
Owners and Contractors interviewed	211
Other visits	45

Notices

Number of Statutory Notices served	57
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	17
Number of Informal Notices served	121
Number of Informal Notices complied with	113

Clearance areas and Individual Unfit Houses
Action taken under the Housing Acts & Public Health Act for
the period ending 31st December, 1962.

	No. of houses	No. of persons displaced
Part A.—Houses Demolished Not in Clearance Area	—	—
As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sec. 17, Housing Act, 1957	19	5
Part B.—Unfit Houses Closed		
Under Housing Act, 1957	—	—
Part C.—Unfit Houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied.	By	Local
	Owner.	Authority
After informal action by Local Authority	36	—
After formal notice under Public Health Act	17	—
„ „ „ Housing Act, 1957	—	—

WATER SUPPLY

Samples of water were taken throughout the year for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis, the number and results of the examination were as follows:—

	Public Service Pipes
Bacteriological Examination	
No. of Samples	13
No. Satisfactory	12
No Unsatisfactory	1
No. Suspicious	—
Chemical Analysis	
No. of Samples	5
No. Satisfactory	5
No. Unsatisfactory	—

The sample showing an unsatisfactory result was taken from a public stand pipe in the Car Park, Rhossili.

There appeared to be no explanation for this; a further sample taken a few days later and subsequent samples all proved satisfactory.

Reservoirs

Below is a list of reservoirs showing their capacity :—

Cefn Bryn (Ex-Parkmill)	.....	.....462,000	Gals.
Hotwell	.....	..... 30,000	do.
Holywell	.....	..... 37,500	do.
Pitton	.....	..... 60,000	do.

FLUORIDATION

One of the best and cheapest ways of decreasing the incidence of dental caries is flouridation of public water supplies.

FOOD AND DRUGS

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

The following is the number of Registered Distributors and Dairies.

Registered Distributors

Dairymen	5)	14
Producer retailers	4)	
Retail Distributors		5)	

Registered Dairies	5
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MEAT INSPECTION

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE
OR IN PART

Description	Cattle Ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & lambs	Pigs
Number killed	196	—	—	3047	817
Number inspected	196	—	—	3047	817
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	36	—	—	62	58
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	18·3%	—	—	2·03%	7·2%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

RODENT CONTROL

The following is a summary of the inspections made, and the treatment carried out by the rodent operator for the year ending 31st December, 1962.

	L. Premises	A. Dwelling Houses	Business Premises etc.	Agricultural
No of inspections	4	1041	48	261
Total inspections incl. re-inspections	...	.....	.....	946
No. of properties found infested :				
Rats	4	343	73	—
Mice	—	79	15	—
No. infested premises treated	5	347	60	—

